Theolog. Seminary.
New Albany, Ia. Feb. 6th, 1

To the
Society of Inquiry
Theolog. Sem. Princeton. N. J.

Dear Brethren.

We received your kind & christian letter, in due season, but through some mistake, it was not presented formally to us until recently, so that the delay in answering it, may be thus accounted for. We would return again, the assurance of our love to you in Christ, at the same time expressing a desire that you may prosper in word & deed, and all your preparation for the great work of preaching Christ & him crucified to a perishing world.

We are pleased to inform you that our number is larger this term, than during any preceding; being twenty six in all, and one or two others expected. The general health of the students has been good thus far; we have had no real sickness among us, with the exception of one or two cases, so that we have abundant reason to say, that the loving kindness and preserving care of our Heavenly Father have been manifested to us. But the Lord has not left us without chastisement. Early in the session we were called to mourn the removal of one of our those who was with us last year & whom we supposed would also be associated with us again. But God whose he was, saw good to take him to himself, & so disappoint our fond expectations. Thos. C. Hart of Jefferson City Mo. was the subject of this allwise dispensation. He had been laboring as an agent for the Board of Home Missions during the greater part of the summer in the northern part of Illinois, and during this tour laid the foundation of the disease which terminated his labours & his life. He died on his beached home, but was surrounded by kind relatives & friends, and what was still better the Savior was there as we have reason to believe. His rod & staff they comforted him". "What was his gain was our loss", for we felt that we indeed had lost a brother. We ever found us him a diligent student, a faithful friend & a consistent christian. It was a loud call to us to be also ready, and we trust that it was not unheeded.

The pecuniary affairs of our infant institution are in as prosperous an condition as could be expected, considering the embarassments of the times & the number and urgency of the calls from every quarter of the great fields of benevolent operations. Our agent has succeeded in raising a sufficient amount, by subscription, to endow two professorships; the object before him now is to collect the means for purchasing a library & putting up suitable buildings. With this in view he went South a few weeks ago, within the bounds of the Synod of Mississippi; but we have recently heard that he has entirely failed in accomplishing his object. That Synod has undertaken to raise $20000 for the purpose of establishing a theological professorship in one of their colleges; this being the case he thought it needless to present the claims of this institution, for their consideration. We hear something said occasionally, in regard to obtaining a third professor; and after the discussion between Messrs. Bice & Campbell, held recently at Lexington Ky. [illegible]

suitable person to fill the place. He is ready & willing to accept the appointment
salary can be procured for him; it is thought by some of his friends in Pey. that
can be done, on the ground of his great popularity in that state, which was
a little increased by the late discussion. But all this is in prospect, and it
will require time & much patient toil to bring about so desirable a result. It is desir-
able, for we feel confident that the learning & piety of such a man, as we believe
Bp. Rice to be, would be the means, to no small extent, under God, in building
this institution in the confidence & favor of the Church, and making it a last-
ing blessing to this Community & to the world. Here you have a brief
statement of our present situation & prospects. Brethren, will you not
remember us in our difficulties & embarrassments, and pray the great Head
the Church that he would smile upon this "School of the prophets" which we
trust, he has established here. Ask, that for the sake of His own cause and the
manifestation of his own glory, he would build it up on a firm & lasting foundat-
, that it may prove a lasting blessing to the Church & the whole world of
ankind. The institution with which you have the privilege of being con-
ted, has been long established & has risen high in the confidence and favor of the Church
has a suitable endowment & commodious and convenient buildings erected. It has
therefore the same difficulties to contend with which this has, rising as it is into
tence & just putting forth as it were its first exertions in the struggle for life. We
all confidence in your Seminary & would ever pray for its prosperity & extended
fulness; but at the same time we feel that the wants of the Church & above
the destitutions of this "Great Valley", demand another institution west of the
ountains, established on the same principles & conducted on the same plan.
d while we fully appreciate the motives & exertions of the Brethren at Allegheny, we
ink at the same time that this is the place where the Western Seminary should
located, as being more central & more accessible to every portion of the West than
y other, that would have the same advantages. We trust that we as students in
search of the same "pearl of great price", as those preparing for the same great work,
aring the same cares & anxieties, exposed to the same temptations, and looking
onward to the same glorious reward; have a sympathy & kindred feeling with
ch other, and "if one suffer all suffer" ~~with him~~, or "one be honored" "all rejoice" ~~with~~
. Therefore we ask again, that you would pray for us who are students, that we
ay be "guided into all truth" & in due time go forth into the field, "workmen that
needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Remember also
ur beloved Professors, that they may be guided by infinite Wisdom in all their
abors & "have the unspeakable pleasure of seeing them crowned with success."

With regard to our spiritual state, we have nothing of interest to communi-
cate; we are sensible of our great deficiencies & shortcomings in attaining Spiritual
s, & come far short of our manifest duties in our Master's service, and by no
s up to our distinguishing privileges. Notwithstanding all this,

we are not called to mourn the hiding of God's countenance from us, & the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness still shine upon us. We need much more ... more grace, a greater faith & a more abundant effusion of the Holy Spirit.

We are gratified to learn that some of your number will most probably ... in this part of the great moral vineyard of our Lord and Savior. We suppose tho... who live at a distance & have never witnessed the moral desolation which reigns ... in this part of our beloved country, can have no idea of the extent & power; even we who ... live on the borders of the field, know not the true condition of the harvest to be gathered ... the reality is only known to those who have explored it in its length & breadth. Could we see it thus, we would doubtless, be led to exclaim "the harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few." And how often is the devoted Missionary as he casts his eyes about him upon the ruins - not of ancient temples & stately edifices, ... pride & boast of some renowned city now no more - but the souls of men, as they lie thick... ly around him "in their blood;" O that the people of God had a heart to pray more earnestly, that the Lord of the harvest would send forth more laborers into his harvest! With such a picture before our minds, which is still more highly wrought by the consideration, that, the flood tide of error has not only commenced its course but it is now bearing in upon us its weight of waters, threatning to sweep away the ... feeble landmarks which have here & there been set up; the greater part of our num... ber look forward to this, as the field of their labors. The call is loud & urgent; and ... though the church is under the strongest obligations to sustain the foreign cause, her ... attention should by no means be diverted from that at home. There is however no need ... of either suffering; if the whole body of the Church were right on this subject, did all ... the members possess - at least in some degree - the true spirit of missions, both would be ... sustained; the "Macedonian cry" from abroad would be heard & the earnest calls for aid ... at Home, would soon be responded to, by the Churches. There is but one of our ... number, who has devoted to the foreign service; he expects to go to Africa. We trust ... however, that we are standing ready to obey the call of the Lord, to go wherever he in ... his Providence may direct.

We are looking forward with interest, to the meeting of the next Gen. Assembly; it will doubtless be the means of building up Presbyterianism, ... the West & giving strength & encouragement to the Churches. If those exciting ques... tions which now agitate the church come before that body (and they most probably will) ... and the members become too much excited in their discussion, it will be an injury ... to that cause & bring a reproach upon it; such a course is therefore to be deprecated, ... and frequent prayer offered up to God that He would preside over their delib... erations, to the ordering of all things in calmness & moderation.

Please write soon & believe us yours in the bonds of Christian fellowship. By ordy of the Gen. of Inquiry.

Wm H. Moore
Levi Hughes } Corresponding Secretaries

To the

Society of Inquiry of the

Theological Seminary

Princeton

N. Jy.